

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT
2013/14**

Organisation Name	Partnership between Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire Councils, NHS Forth Valley and Macmillan Cancer Support.
Project	Forth Valley Macmillan Money Matters Project
Agreement Dates	1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014
Name of Lead Officer	Linda Scott

A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS

Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

To offer easily accessible information and advice on money matters and financial wellbeing to cancer patients, their carers and families living in the Forth Valley area and to increase income available to these client groups.

List of Agreed Outcomes

Increase the income of cancer sufferers and their families living in the Forth Valley area by providing debt management and benefit advice. This enhances the lives of those affected by ensuring that their financial wellbeing is secured at a time of a diagnosis of cancer and that individuals remain financially included.

Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

The project advisors understand the experiences and needs of cancer patients and their families and are trained to give expert advice to people experiencing these difficult circumstances and can ensure that the person has easy access to other Macmillan services. The project also has direct links with health professionals, which means they get referred at the point of diagnosis and are seen quickly. The project receives referrals for specialist advice to cancer sufferers and their families from Falkirk Council's Advice Service. The local CABx make referrals on occasion to the project but will normally deal with applicants themselves, normally because they have established a relationship previously with the individual or because they are also offering a range of other advice services to the individual so it is preferable that the CAB advisor deals with all aspects, including, where relevant making grant applications to Macmillan on behalf of clients.

B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES

Summary of Key Achievements

For the financial year 2012-2013, the project helped support 1495 of cancer patients / their families living in the Forth Valley area. The project was successful in generating additional income of £3,268,306 for these clients.

In the Falkirk Council area, 748 of clients were assisted and £1,843,116 of additional income secured.

We are awaiting the final outcome figures for the last quarter of 2013/14 but for the period 1.4.13 to 31.12.13, the project helped support 346 individuals and generated £634,625 of additional income for these people.

Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

The project is managed by Stirling Council. The council began a significant change at the outset of 2013/14. During quarter 1, there was a major organisational restructure resulting in voluntary severance application and a high staff turnover, including the loss of experienced team members along with an officer move. There was a reduced capacity within the team to manage the cases and there was a downturn in the number of client referrals during this period from 268 to 219. All of this affected the performance of the project, particularly during quarter two of 2013/14. A new Manager with overall responsibility for advice services at Stirling, took up his position in October 2013 and the service is now almost back to running as normal. Members of the Project anticipate the performance for quarter four will improve significantly.

How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities

The project has contributed to the following Council's Poverty Action Outcome of providing support to some of our most vulnerable citizens and improving their financial security by maximising the income of those households and improving benefit uptake and debt management.

This project enhances the lives of its service users by ensuring that their financial wellbeing is secured at a time of a diagnosis of cancer. By ensuring that individuals remain financially included, the project's intervention ensures that benefit income continues to be claimed from central government and utilised within local communities.

List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance

See text under "Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation" above.

How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer

Six monthly.

C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Total Support Provided (Financial & In- Kind Contributions)

£50,000 from Falkirk Council

The project also received £32,000 NHS Forth Valley and £100,000 from Stirling, which includes management support and funding in kind (office space, HR support, IT support, equipment, pool car vehicles). MacMillan provided support, training and guidance for the team and access to the other Macmillan cancer support services. Clackmannanshire Council did not provide funding for 2013-14 but have agreed to provide £16,000 of funding for 2014-15, giving a total funding package amount of £198,000.

The pattern of work activity for the year was an approximate 50/30/20% split across Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire respectively.

<u>Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts</u>	
n/a – finances are managed by Stirling Council	
<u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u>	
No known risks at present.	
<u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u>	
Low	
D CONCLUSIONS	
<u>Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year</u>	
The project has ensured that the needs of citizens are met and all targeted outcomes have been achieved. A funding commitment from all partners involved has been made for 2014/15 to ensure the successful ongoing delivery of this project.	
E COMPLETED BY	
<u>Name</u>	Linda Scott
<u>Designation</u>	Policy Officer
<u>Date</u>	10 April 2013